

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7, 27, 28, 30-33 and 35 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 31 being the independent claims. Claims 8-26, 29 and 34 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

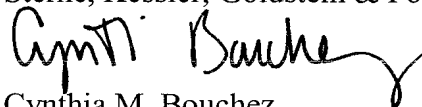
The specification has been amended to include the priority information.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.



Cynthia M. Bouchez  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 47,438

Date: July 17, 2007

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

692793\_1.DOC